



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

BUFFALO, CRAWFORD, JACKSON, JUNEAU, LA CROSSE, MONROE, TREMPLEAU, & VERNON

June 2005

Unemployment rates take a nose dive in May

Seven of the eight counties that make up Western Wisconsin reported declines in their May unemployment rates, as compared to the previous month. The May rates for both La Crosse County and the two-county La Crosse MSA were unchanged in May, holding at 3.7 percent.

As was the case in April, during May the La Crosse MSA had the second lowest unemployment among Wisconsin's 12 MSA's, only Madison, at 3.2 percent had a lower rate in May. Employment increases in the trade, construction, and leisure/hospitality industries helped keep the May unemployment rate at 3.7 percent in the La Crosse MSA.

Fifty-four of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties had lower unemployment rates in May than they had experienced in April, while nine were unchanged and nine had higher rates in May. There were thirteen counties with unemployment rates below 4.0 percent. Paradoxically, Dane County with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate, the state's lowest unemployment rate, was one of the nine counties that experienced a higher rate for May than April. Ozaukee County had the next lowest unemployment rate at 3.6 percent. Four counties had 3.7 percent unemployment rates. There were several counties, including four in Western Wisconsin (Buffalo, La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Vernon), with unemployment rates under 4.0 percent. Menominee and Iron counties, with rates of 10.3 and 7.5 percent were the only counties in the state with unemployment rates of 7.0 percent or higher.

Nationally, the trade deficit showed slight improvement in May, reflecting a temporary decline in world oil prices (as of this writing, this temporary decline has evaporated). Meanwhile, a continued surge in clothing and textile shipments pushed the shortfall with China to the highest level in six months. The US Commerce De-

partment reported that America's trade deficit fell to 2.7 percent in May to \$55.3 billion, the best showing since March. The bulk of the progress came from a big drop in oil prices, which pushed the value of petroleum imports down 6.8 percent.

Labor Force Estimates (Unadjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: May 2005			
Civilian Labor Force	74,300	3,032.4	148,878
Employment	71,500	2,893.5	141,591
Unemployment	2,800	138.8	7,287
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.6%	4.9%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	0	0.6	604
Employment	0	5.3	652
Unemployment	100	-4.8	(48)
Unemployment rate	0.0%	-0.1%	0.0%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	700	-17.2	2,219
Employment	700	-9.4	2,724
Unemployment	-100	-7.9	(505)
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

** La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota*

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On a national scale, the past few years have been some of the toughest in decades for young summer jobseekers, and 2005 is not likely to get much better, according to a study by Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies. Despite an moving economy, only

retail, jobs once held almost entirely by teenagers. At the same time, the soft labor market of recent years has found many jobs seekers in their early 20s taking jobs that used to be filled by high school students.

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

May 2005	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,980	9,260	10,010	12,880	62,730	23,670	16,380	14,960	157,860	95,130	3,032,370
Employed	7,670	8,820	9,510	12,160	60,390	22,800	15,780	14,400	151,510	91,120	2,893,530
Unemployed	310	440	500	730	2,350	870	610	560	6,350	4,010	138,830
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.8%	5.0%	5.6%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%	4.2%	4.6%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,200	8,200	8,800	9,000	69,500	19,800	14,000	9,000	143,300	73,800	2,810,300
Total Private	4,200	7,000	6,000	6,700	59,400	15,400	11,800	7,000	117,600	58,200	2,387,700
Goods Producing	400	2,100	2,000	2,300	11,400	4,300	6,100	1,000	29,400	18,000	629,700
Service Producing	4,800	6,100	6,800	6,800	58,100	15,500	7,900	8,000	113,900	55,800	2,180,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	130	230	1,040	290	2,800	620	370	260	5,800	2,900	130,300
Manufacturing	200	1,900	900	2,000	8,600	3,600	5,700	700	23,600	15,000	499,400
Trade	400	1,900	1,000	1,100	11,500	2,600	1,500	1,800	21,900	10,400	427,300
Transportation & Utilities	2,000	200	800	400	2,200	1,700	600	300	8,300	6,000	108,300
Financial Activities	170	170	240	200	3,000	520	460	390	5,200	2,100	157,700
Education and Health Services	600	1,200	800	1,200	13,400	2,100	1,300	2,200	22,800	9,400	382,900
Leisure & Hospitality	300	900	800	800	7,100	1,700	800	700	13,100	6,100	246,800
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	300	600	400	700	10,800	2,400	1,100	700	17,000	6,200	435,000
Total Government	930	1,150	2,770	2,330	10,080	4,360	2,150	1,950	25,700	15,600	422,600
Federal	170	70	50	250	450	2,020	120	120	3,240	2,790	29,200
State	20	220	450	790	2,520	260	30	40	4,330	1,810	104,800
Local	740	860	2,270	1,290	7,110	2,090	2,000	1,780	18,150	11,040	288,600
Change from one month ago	April 2005										
Civilian Labor Force**	30	40	120	20	0	510	90	20	800	800	600
Employed	80	90	170	90	-100	600	180	80	1,200	1,300	5,300
Unemployed	-40	-60	-50	-70	0	-90	-90	-50	-400	-400	-4,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	0.0	-0.4	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3	-0.5	-0.1
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	60	130	210	90	800	790	280	70	2,400	1,600	34,200
Percent change NFWS from last mon	1.1%	1.7%	2.5%	1.1%	1.1%	4.1%	2.1%	0.8%	1.7%	2.3%	1.2%
Total Private	50	130	200	100	800	700	280	70	2,300	1,600	33,600
Goods Producing	10	40	200	0	200	0	0	0	400	200	10,300
Service Producing	40	100	0	100	600	700	150	30	1,700	1,200	23,900
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	10	20	150	10	200	40	50	30	500	300	11,800
Manufacturing	0	20	0	0	0	30	90	10	200	200	-1,500
Trade	10	10	0	0	100	50	30	20	200	100	5,300
Transportation & Utilities	20	0	20	10	100	20	20	10	200	100	2,300
Financial Activities	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	10	0	0	300
Education and Health Services	0	10	0	0	0	10	20	-20	0	0	-1,100
Leisure & Hospitality	10	50	40	100	400	140	80	30	800	400	10,200
Svcs	0	10	0	0	0	380	0	-10	400	400	6,300
Total Government	10	0	-10	-40	0	110	0	-10	100	100	600
Federal	30	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	100
State	0	20	0	0	-90	10	0	10	-100	0	700
Local	-30	-10	-10	-40	90	90	10	-20	100	0	-200
Change from one year ago	May 2004										
Civilian Labor Force**	-130	50	-120	-310	100	60	290	-150	-300	-300	-17,200
Employed	-110	100	-150	-260	100	150	330	-80	0	0	-9,400
Unemployed	-10	-50	30	-60	0	-80	-50	-70	-300	-300	-7,800
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	50	340	0	-100	1,100	530	770	200	2,900	1,800	26,600
Percent change NFWS from last year	0.9%	4.3%	0.0%	-1.1%	1.6%	2.8%	5.9%	2.2%	2.1%	2.5%	1.0%
Total Private	80	310	100	-100	800	500	700	200	2,800	1,900	26,700
Goods Producing	0	150	0	-200	-400	0	0	0	-400	0	6,500
Service Producing	40	190	0	100	1,500	300	200	200	2,500	1,000	20,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	0	10	10	100	30	30	10	200	100	4,400
Manufacturing	0	140	0	-200	-500	160	520	-40	200	600	2,100
Trade	-20	90	0	0	700	20	30	60	900	200	3,800
Transportation & Utilities	60	10	0	20	0	120	20	10	200	200	2,400
Financial Activities	10	0	0	0	0	-20	30	20	0	0	100
Education and Health Services	30	30	0	0	500	100	70	120	900	400	8,100
Leisure & Hospitality	-10	30	0	0	-100	-90	30	0	-100	0	4,200
Svcs	10	0	0	0	200	220	20	0	500	300	1,600
Total Government	-30	30	-100	-40	270	-10	20	10	100	-100	-100
Federal	-10	0	0	-20	0	-50	-10	10	-100	-100	-300
State	0	20	10	60	180	10	0	0	300	100	1,300
Local	-30	10	-100	-80	90	30	30	0	0	-100	-1,100

• Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County

** Includes participants residing in area.

*** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates above are NOT seasonally adjusted.

Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. NFWS data benchmarked to 3/2004